



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Dear Fisheries Constituent,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in a cooperative research conservation engineering workshop to be held January 24 and 25, 2005, at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The goal of this workshop is to produce a step-by-step guide for developing sound research proposals for cooperative research projects. The target audience for this guide is the fishing community. Your participation will provide an important perspective that is greatly needed to ensure that a high-quality, useful guide is produced. The workshop is being organized by the Northeast Region Bycatch Committee, which includes members from NOAA Fisheries Service, Northeast Sea Grant, the New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The workshop will determine, develop, and lay out the necessary components of a quality cooperative research proposal. Once completed this guide would be made available to the fishing community. Your participation in developing this guide will contribute greatly to the quality of research proposals submitted for cooperative research programs throughout the Northeast. A light breakfast and working lunch will be provided on both days in order to facilitate the development of the guide within the condensed time frame. Please see the attached workshop agenda for further details. If you have any questions please contact Brian Hooker at 978-281-9220 or brian.hooker@noaa.gov.

If you require hotel accommodations, please register with the Sheraton Harborside by January 5, 2006, and note that you are with the NMFS group. I request that you please RSVP with my office by January 5, 2006, using the attached reservation form.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

